

MR. SENATOR SEWARD.

There are some known opinions of the distinguished Senator from New York from which we entirely dissent; and we do not know, when we come to think of it, that we have ever in our lives given him credit in these columns for any single thing that he has either done or left undone. This has been from no want of personal good-will or respect towards him, but simply by accident; but it is one reason, among others, why we should give him credit when we think it due to him. The occasion presents itself. We have sincere pleasure in doing now so much justice to that Senator as to place before our readers the following eloquent, and indeed brilliant, passage from a Speech delivered by him at the Dinner given on Saturday last by the authorities and citizens of the city of New York to the Members of the Legislature of that State visiting that city.

At the close of his speech Mr. SEWARD said: "Gentlemen, we all have a common property in the State of New York as it is, and in the whole and every part and element of it. There may be among the citizens of this great capital some who feel that they have a right to look contemptuously on the country which constitutes its broad suburbs. I remember one who seemed to think so. I fell in with him on a tour—I am sure it was his first one to Niagara. He expressed his surprise at seeing a steamboat on Cayuga lake and two steamboats on Seneca lake, and when he saw yet another on Canandaigua lake, he asked me, with all the artlessness of one willing to be instructed, how they got the steamboats into the lakes? [Laughter.] Well, gentlemen, it must be only such persons as this one that undervalues the 'rural' districts, and they are only to be pitied, but certainly not to be retaliated upon.

"So there doubtless are some minds in the country that are jealous of the city. They do not know, they do not understand that the wealth gathered here flows over the whole State; that the light of civilization kindled here illuminates this broad land, while its ashes and dinders fall within the confines of the city itself. The wealth produced here is shared with the country; the poverty and crime generated here remain at home. Surely we of the country owe the city liberal returns for such beneficence. [Cheers.]

"Gentlemen, we have a common property in the virtues that have made this State what it is—in that principal virtue, emulation, signified by the bearings on our armorial shield; the rock with the waves beating upon it, and the motto 'In vain,' the rising sun, and that spirit-sustaining motto, 'Higher.' It was not for town or country either that HAMILTON and JAY labored to secure the elements of freedom, justice, and order in our constitution, or that CORTLANDT developed our vast resources and made the valley of the St. Lawrence and the valley of the Mississippi tributaries to our greatness.

"And this thought suggests, gentlemen, yet another: the intimate relation, the necessity of indissoluble connection between the State and the United States. It is not New York alone that supports and sustains this great city and this great State; it is the entire nation, stretching from the river St. Lawrence along the Atlantic coast and the Mexican Gulf, and then across the mountains and along the Pacific coast away up to Nootka Sound. Our star is indeed brilliant and distinguishable in the constellation, but, let it shoot from its sphere, and it would pale its fires and be lost in the heavens. [Cheers.] Gentlemen, no man in New York can be a disunionist. [Cheers.] I know none, indeed. [Cheers.] I will say only one thing further on the subject of the Union. I am a believer in the Christian religion. When it happens in my way to fall in with a skeptic, I endeavor to remove his doubts, and I persevere patiently; but when he avows himself an Atheist, I think that he is to be turned over to my friend, Dr. Benedict, of the insane hospital at Utica. So, if I should hear a New York man avow himself a disunionist, I should think the Bloomingdale asylum the fittest place for his correction. [Cheers.] Sir, what is just and wise must be defended and maintained, but he who cannot defend and maintain this in this Union, and under this Constitution, is capable of doing no good, and, in my poor judgment, incapable of doing more harm. [Cheers.] May Heaven take care of the New York man, if he be one who seeks disunion, and Heaven save the wife of him who sincerely suspects others of being so! But, gentlemen, I must not forget that I am only a casual and unexpected guest; I will not abuse, by much speaking, the hospitality which has indulged me with the privilege of being a listener at this happy greeting of town and country. [Cries of, go on, go on.] No, gentlemen. [Cries of, go on, go on.] Gentlemen of the rural districts, please to be in order. Excuse me, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and Mr. Speaker, for thus usurping your authority. I give you, gentlemen, 'The City of New York and the 'State of New York—harmony and affection between them, and an indissoluble Union between them and all the sister States."

We have great pleasure (says the Commercial Advertiser) in publishing the following correspondence, so highly creditable to the parties concerned. The present was indeed a handsome one, albeit the letter announcing it is so modest and unpretending. The reply of Mr. WEBSTER shows how true is his heart to every patriotic impulse, and how ardently he is devoted to the Constitution of his country, and the perpetuity of this Union. His eloquent words and impassioned aspirations will find a response in every patriotic heart, and they make one more than ever admire the man who feared no personal consequences when his country's weal demanded his services:

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 14, 1851.

DEAR SIR: A number of the citizens of New York, without distinction of party, beg leave, through the undersigned, to ask your acceptance of a carriage, harness, and horses, which have been selected for you, as a small token of the high estimation in which they hold your long course of public services in the councils of the nation, as the expounder of the Constitution and the defender of the Union.

It must be a source of great gratification to you to know that, in the crisis which has just passed, your bold and manly course in exposing the great cause of the Union, and its recent compromise, at the peril of loss of favor with a section of that party with which you have ever acted, and whose principles you have ever maintained, has met with the warm approval and cordial support of your countrymen at large.

That your valuable life may be long spared to your family and your country, is the ardent wish of your friends, whom we represent, and of ourselves.

We are, dear sir, your obedient servants,

WM. M. RICHARDS,
SAM'L E. SPROULL,
CHAS. A. STETSON,
CHAS. U. A. RODGERS.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 21, 1851.

GENTLEMEN: On the receipt of your letter of the 14th of February, I deemed it advisable to postpone an answer until the carriage, harness, and horses should arrive here. They came on and were received, all sound and in good order, in the early part of this month. The pressure of affairs at the breaking up of Congress, and until the final adjournment of the Senate, has obliged me to put off until to-morrow every thing not absolutely necessary to be done to-day.

And now, gentlemen, I have to thank you for your costly and handsome present. The carriage itself is thought to be as elegant as any ever seen in the country. It appears to be of excellent workmanship, and is rich, without being gaudy. It is very easy and commodious, and its motion pleasant and agreeable. The horses attached to the carriage, I think, are quite worthy of it. They are certainly uncommonly handsome, and their travelling and action very fine.

On the whole, gentlemen, I rather feel that this equipage is too splendid and superb for a plain farmer of Maryland; but as it has been your pleasure to make me so very valuable a gift, I accept it with all thankfulness, and shall always regard it as the measure, not of my merits, but of your bounty and magnificence.

But, gentlemen, I am more deeply your debtor for the estimation in which you are pleased to hold my public services in the councils of the country. If I have attempted, gentlemen, to expound the Constitution, I have attempted to expound that which I have studied with diligence and veneration from my early manhood to the present day. If I have endeavored to defend and uphold the Union of the States, it is because my fixed judgment and my unalterable affections have impelled me, and still impel me, to regard that Union as the only security for general prosperity and national glory. Yes, gentlemen, the Constitution and the Union! I place them together. If they stand, they must stand together; if they fall, they must fall together. They are the images which present to every American his surest reliance, and his brightest hopes. If they perish in my day, or afterwards, I shall still leave, in the history of the times, my own deep, heartfelt, and engrossing conviction that they are among the greatest political blessings ever bestowed by Providence on man; and that if, in any course of disastrous events, such as may happen to all human institutions, they should become severed and broken, even their history and their memory will constitute a track of light upon which all lovers of human liberty in after times may gaze with admiration. Yes, gentlemen, Union and the Constitution!

"Fortunati ambo! si quid mea carmina possunt,
"Nulla dies unquam memori vos eximet ara,
"Dum domus Eoas Capitolii immobile saxum
"Accolet, imperiumque patris Romanæ habebit."

I was not unaware, gentlemen, on the morning of the 7th of March of last year, that I was entering upon a duty which, as you suggest, might bring into peril that favor which had been long shown me by that political party whose general principles I had for a long time steadily maintained. A crisis had arrived in which it did not become me, as I thought, to be indifferent, and to do nothing. Still less did it become me to set a part which should inflame sectional animosities, tend to destroy all genuine American feeling, and shake the fabric of the Government to its foundation. I was willing to trust, and am still willing to trust, for the vindication of my motives to the intelligent men of my own party, and of all parties. I should, indeed, have been wholly unworthy of that character which it is my highest ambition to maintain among my countrymen, if I had allowed any personal peril to bear with the weight of a feather against my profound sense of public duty. Whatever may now happen, I shall meet it with a clear conscience, and a fixed purpose; and while acting in full co-operation with the great mass of my fellow-citizens, who hold the same sentiments that you hold, I shall feel nothing.

I am, gentlemen, your obliged friend and fellow-citizen,
DANIEL WEBSTER.

MONTE. WM. M. RICHARDS, SAM'L E. SPROULL,
CHAS. A. STETSON, and CHAS. U. A. RODGERS.

NEW ORLEANS, MARCH 20, 1851.

LATE FROM YUCATAN.—Seven days later news from Yucatan has been received. The condition of the country was deplorable. A conspiracy had been discovered in Merida to massacre every one and burn the town. It was, however, frustrated, and the leaders arrested and executed.

MORMONS.—There arrived at New Orleans on the 15th instant from Liverpool four hundred English Mormons, under the guidance of two elders. They are on their way to the Salt Lake city.

ALABAMA POLITICS.

A public meeting was lately held at Montgomery, Alabama, for the purpose of forming a "Southern Rights Union Club," as an organization to oppose the Southern Rights Clubs of Secessionists. The club was formed and a constitution adopted, the preamble of which sets forth that their object is to oppose all factions or parties whose object is a dissolution of the Federal Government for existing causes. The resolutions declare that "as the issue of union or disunion is to be made before the people of Alabama at the next general election, it behooves us to prepare for the contest," and that they therefore adopt the resolutions of the Georgia Convention as a platform.

The Mobile "Register" doubts the propriety of this movement, under existing circumstances; denies that it is probable that the question of union or disunion will be presented to the people of Alabama any where at the ensuing election, in a respectable or imposing form; declares that the recent action of the Southern State Rights Clubs, so far as they recommended secession, has proved entirely abortive and stillborn; that the people in no county of the State will tolerate that issue, and that the ultraists will not dare make it.

The Hon. WILLIAM B. CAMPBELL has been nominated as the Whig candidate for Governor of Tennessee. He received the unanimous vote of the Whig State Convention.

It will be remembered (says the Boston Transcript) that, in a recent debate in the United States House of Representatives, Mr. ASHmun, of Massachusetts, remarked, in reference to Mr. ALLEN: "But the gentleman says he is frank, open, and manly. Does he not publish private confidential letters of Charles Hudson?" To which Mr. ALLEN, in his seat, replied: "No, sir; no, sir; you are a—rel if you say that I do." "Whether you do or not," returned Mr. Ashmun, Charles Hudson can say. He is pretty well known in this House, and his veracity can probably be trusted." Immediately after this debate, Mr. Ashmun wrote to Mr. Hudson to inquire whether the statement was true or false, and received the following telegraphic despatch:

"BOSTON, MARCH 3, 1851.

"HON. GEORGE AINSWORTH: I wrote a confidential letter to Mr. ALLEN just before the Philadelphia Convention, in 1848. He read the letter in a public meeting at Worcester, and published it in the Worcester Spy."

"CHARLES HUDSON."

MELANCHOLY DEATH OF A POOR DEBTOR.—The infamous barbarity to which a poor man not able to discharge a pecuniary obligation is liable at the hands of a soulless creditor, where the law for imprisonment for debt prevails, is painfully illustrated by the following tragic occurrence in Boston:

"JOHN JAY BRADLEY, a man of liberal education, a Greek scholar, and formerly an editor of a paper, died in Boston jail on Thursday, where he had been confined for a week past for debt. He was in the last stage of consumption when sent to jail, and could scarcely get up the steps for weakness. The creditor peremptorily refused to release him unless the money was paid. Deceased had certain rights in property which were not available at the present time, which prevented his swearing out under the poor debtor's act unless he assigned them to his creditor. He never attempted to get released, and was a little insane. His father was applied to, but he refused to interfere. There had been a quarrel between father and son, but it does not appear that the former knew fully of his son's condition. The creditor must have imbibed all the spirit of a Shylock to send a dying man to end his days in jail for a debt of \$200."

MONTE AND OHIO RAILROAD.—The agent appointed by the Governor of Alabama to select and locate the lands in that State appropriated for the Mobile and Ohio railroad has completed that duty. About two hundred and fifty-three thousand four hundred and forty acres, or three hundred and ninety-six sections, have been selected. Most of the selected lands lie contiguous to the waters of Mobile bay. The lands are said to be worth an average of three dollars per acre. The amount which they will yield, it is estimated, will be sufficient to build that section of the road which runs through Alabama.

LAND SALES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S.—The real estate of the late ROBERT W. BOWIE, lying in Nottingham district, Prince George's county, (Maryland), was sold at trustee's sale on Tuesday last. The Marlboro' Gazette says:

"The 'Conick farm,' of 390 acres, was purchased by Mr. Benjamin Swann, at \$36 25 per acre. The plantation called 'Mattaponi' had been divided by commissioners into five lots. The first lot, of 136 acres, principally in wood, was purchased by Mr. James S. Morell, at \$26 per acre. The second, containing 240 acres, by Messrs. Robert Gibson and Fielder Bowie, at \$32 per acre. The third, 350 acres, by Mr. Michael B. Carroll, at \$33 per acre. The fourth, 241 acres, mostly in wood, by Mr. Robt. J. Young, at \$16 per acre; and the fifth lot (being the dower) with the dwelling house and mill, containing 300 acres, was bought by Mr. James J. Bowie, at \$10 per acre. The sales of these lands amounted to about \$43,000. The personal property, heretofore sold by the executor, for upwards of \$40,000."

INCORRIGIBLE ROPE.—The *Star* recently made in that city of incombustible hempen rope, which had been prepared by a new chemical process. A piece of the prepared rope and a piece of wire rope were put into a blacksmith's fire. The hempen rope was consumed in a few minutes, while the wire rope, together with the lampen rope was only slightly charred on the outside.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE BOSTON MOB.

In the subjoined document (says the Boston Courier) we lay before our readers the sentiments of President FILLMORE respecting the outrage which happened in this city on the 15th of February last. It will be remembered that immediately after that unfortunate occurrence the City Council caused to be transmitted to Washington certain orders and resolutions enacted by them, for the purpose of publicly expressing their condemnation of the outrage, and of explaining the circumstances connected with it. Under the direction of the President, Mr. WEBSTER has written to Mayor BIGLOW a reply to this communication. The sentiments expressed in this letter will meet with the hearty approval of every man who desires the peace and safety of this community. It is highly gratifying to perceive that the view taken by the President of the affair of February is such as by no means diminishes his confidence in the good sense, integrity, national spirit, and loyalty of the people of Boston. The wide circulation of this letter will do much good in removing the false impressions which have been created respecting the existence among us of disaffection to the Federal Government and our constitutional obligations. It is impossible to state the matter in a clearer and more satisfactory manner than it has been done by Mr. WEBSTER. This letter will be read with unqualified approval and satisfaction by every true American citizen:

WASHINGTON, MARCH 10, 1851.

HON. JOHN P. BIGLOW, Mayor of Boston:

SIR: The President has had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 15th February, enclosing official copies of the order and resolves lately adopted by the two branches of the Government of the city of Boston.

It affords him great satisfaction to perceive that such measures have been taken by the authorities of Boston as give assurance that no other outrage similar to that which was, he presumes, the immediate cause of their adoption, will be permitted to take place in your city.

From his earliest youth he has been accustomed to regard with the greatest respect and veneration the city of Boston, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

He has been taught to believe that their inhabitants were, almost above all others, the friends of order and good government; intelligent enough to appreciate the advantages of free institutions of their own choice, and capable of understanding and resolving that great political problem of the compatibility of freedom with order, of liberty distinguished from license, and of self-government the furthest removed from the dangers of anarchy; that they were especially devoted to the union of the States, and to the Constitution which established and still maintains that Union; and that their patriotism would never fail to counsel them to fulfill all their obligations under the Constitution, justly and fully, and in the very spirit in which such obligations were entered into by their renowned ancestors.

Entertaining these sentiments, it was difficult for the President to credit the accounts which were received of the outrage on all law perpetrated in Boston on the 15th of February last.

That a prisoner, in lawful custody, within the walls of the Court-house, in the centre of the city, and in full sight of the offices of the municipal authorities, had been at noonday forcibly rescued, by a mob of one or two hundred persons, from the officers of the law, carried out of the building, and through the public streets, in a sort of triumph, and enabled to escape altogether, without an attempt on the part of any of the authorities or of the citizens to preserve order and maintain the law, or to pursue and retake the fugitive, was a statement that seemed to him too improbable to be true.

It was with a feeling of great relief that he received such explanations of this strange occurrence as showed it to have been an entire surprise upon the citizens, and upon the authorities; an act of successful temerity on the part of a very considerable number of persons, which only needed to have been apprehended the shortest time beforehand to have been prevented.

The President is confident that the great majority of the citizens of Boston are entirely loyal to the constitution; that they view with just indignation all such outrages, and all attempts, whether by writing or speaking, to incite the ignorant and unthinking to such acts of violence; and that they are ready to discharge the duties incumbent on them by the constitution and laws of the United States, faithfully and fearlessly, under all circumstances, whenever called upon by the proper authorities.

The occurrence of the 15th of February is certainly greatly to be regretted, as it gives occasion to those not unwilling to seize upon it to question the disposition of your fellow-citizens to comply with their constitutional obligations in good faith; and the history of such an outrage is spread far and wide, reaches where an explanation of it may never follow, and creates ill feelings towards those whose only connection with it is that they were residents of the place in which it was perpetrated. But if, as the President doubts not it will, this event shall arouse the attention of all good citizens to a sense of the dangers to be apprehended from the incubation of such doctrines as have been spread abroad in the country, tending to shake the authority of all law, to unsettle society, and to absolve men from all civil and moral obligations; and shall put them on their guard against the further diffusion of such pernicious sentiments, it may, in the end, be productive of happy results; and certainly the almost unanimous expression of indignation which is called forth among your citizens balances, to some extent, the ill effect flowing from it.

The President does not doubt that the people of Massachusetts perfectly well understand the difference between the freest discussion of political measures, and opposition to legal enactments already made and established. He is quite sure that they regard the law of the land not as a sentiment, or an opinion; but as a rule of conduct prescribed by the general authority, and which all are bound to obey, at the risk of the penalties attached to its violation.

The President directs me to tender you his thanks for the transmission of the resolutions.

I remain, Mr. Mayor, with great respect, your obedient servant,
DANIEL WEBSTER.

NEW BANK OF WASHINGTON NOTES.

In attempting, one day last week, to convey to our readers the impression made upon us by certain new Bank Notes from plates engraved by Messrs. Draper, Welch & Co., of Philadelphia, for a Bank in this city, these notes were represented by a slip of the pen, to be of the *Patriotic Bank* instead of the *Bank of Washington*. A view of the Washington Monument (according to its projected plan) on one of the plates, particularly appropriate to the title of the Bank, ought to have prevented such a blunder.

The charters of the Banks in this city, it may not be amiss here to remind the reader, were, under the influence of party intolerance and vindictiveness, some years ago, refused to be renewed, with the intention to break them up and withhold from the People of this city whatever convenience and accommodation those Banks afforded to merchants and others in the transaction of business. The property of these Banks, as a means of avoiding the loss which would have been necessarily attended an abrupt winding-up of them, before the actual expiration of the charters, placed in the hands of Trustees; and the business of the Banks has been continued, as before, by the Trustees, even more prosperously for the stockholders, and probably more advantageously to the city, than before this change in their condition took place.

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MR. CALHOUN.

It is unfortunate for Mr. CALHOUN's present fame that he has left no successor. It is the fate of a mind like his to have no heir. When he faded from this life his mantle fell on no one. Of those who aspire to fill the vacancy produced by his death—and their name is legion—there is none in whom the country will recognise a representative. They have divided his garments amongst them; but upon any one of them the fragment looks like "new cloth in an old garment," whereby "the rent is made worse."

Assuming that Mr. CALHOUN was sincere in his reiterated declarations of a love for the Union; ascribing to his labors in behalf of Southern rights a purpose which he constantly claimed for them—preservation of the Confederacy; what would probably be his course now, was it permitted the mighty dead to revisit the scenes of their triumphs? Imagine the consternation of the great founder of a political school, when he returned to his disciples, radiant with genius and glowing with patriotism, at finding them selecting the vaticinations of his sombre words as the basis of a scheme of practical politics. His invocations to the spirit which guided the framers of the Constitution in the labor of organizing a Republic are forgotten in the zeal with which his denunciations of those who endangered the work of their hands are dissected for a text—his panegyrics of the Constitution as the perfection of human wisdom, derided by preparations for withdrawing his native State from the Confederacy which it created. There is a glimmer of Mr. Calhoun's greatness in the collection of his self-assumed successors: no glimpse of his statesmanship, none of his talents, nor yet any of his patriotism. The dreariest outpourings, wrung from an overtaught heart by exigencies that are disappearing, and the imaginings of a mind startled by apprehensions which are not likely to be realized, are indeed discernible. But these are such a conserve of the essence of his teachings as the passages against sinners present of the promises of the Holy Scriptures.—N. Orleans Picayune.

Who are most entitled to be considered the friends of the South? Those who would preserve her rights and liberties, in the Union, and under the influence of the Constitution, by bringing back to a sense of constitutional obligations those of the North who have lost that sense—or the Disunionists, who are seeking the overthrow of the whole fabric of that Government which now makes us one people, and to permit each fragment of the dissolved Union to take its chances of liberty and safety, under such local Governments as chance or destiny, or perhaps civil war, may afford? Let the people examine well the issue—let them anticipate the future, if they can, before they take any step to carry out the wild projects of Disunion, and right down a Government which has fostered their rights, property, and honor for sixty years, and has brought them up to a prosperity and power now known and felt by no other Nation on the globe. Beware of all false political prophets, who are incessantly crying, Lo! here is honor, liberty, and safety! Come and see! Believe them not—for many will rise up to deceive you. Beware! their feet lay hold on political death—and there is great fear that their steps will lead down to ruin and utter darkness.—Mississippi "Flag of the Union."

THE REFUGEE QUESTION IN SWITZERLAND.—We learn, by the late arrival from Europe, that the Federal Council of Switzerland has, in consequence of the repeated remonstrance of the German Powers, just abolished the absolute obligation imposed in July, 1849, on the various cantons to receive political refugees. It has, moreover, maintained the decree relative to the expulsion or transmission of refugees into the interior. These resolutions are communicated to the cantons by a proclamation, dated Berne, the 25th ultimo. This document explains that after the events of 1848 and 1849, Switzerland was obliged, from its position, and from the duties of humanity, to receive a vast number of refugees of different nations, and to take measures for distributing them among the cantons; but the time has now arrived at which the cantons can be relieved from this burden, and allowed their full privilege of dealing as they please with refugees. It says, moreover, that the French Government has offered to convey to England or America all refugees not French who may not be able to return to their own countries. Under these circumstances, it observes that the cantons may make use of the right of expelling refugees, without subjecting themselves to the charge of severity. In July, 1849, the number of refugees under the general control of the Confederation was 11,000; but by pardons, expulsions, and voluntary departures, it has been reduced to 500.

RIOT AND MURDER.—We learn from a letter in the Baltimore Patriot that the men employed by Capt. Piper on the railroad, five miles above Fairmount, Virginia, had a serious riot on the night of the 19th instant. It appears Capt. Piper himself had been threatened if he employed any but Mayo men. He disregarded the threat, and employed ten others, when the assembly, containing twelve or thirteen men, was attacked with guns and pistols by forty or fifty assailants, who shot one of the inmates dead, wounded several, and attempted to fire the shanty. Ten of the rioters have been arrested, and five or six of them identified. Others will be arrested.

OHIO AND MISSISSIPPI RAILROAD.—The organization of the western branch of the Ohio and Mississippi railroad, according to the charters of Illinois and Missouri, was to take place on Saturday last at St. Louis. The Cincinnati Gazette says:

"The prospect is that the city of St. Louis, in its corporate capacity, will subscribe \$500,000, and that large private subscriptions will immediately be made. Books will be opened in this city for further private subscriptions. We also learn that large amounts will be obtained along the route. There has been a great change in public opinion since the charters have been of late years of railroads, all the way from Baltimore, Maryland, to the western limits of Missouri. This line of railroad does not vary over fifteen miles from a straight line from Baltimore to Missouri, and its completion will make Cincinnati just what Nature designed her to be, the greatest inland city of the whole continent of America."

The Legislature of DELAWARE has passed a law to prevent free negroes from coming into that State hereafter to reside under a penalty of \$50. The offender, in case he be unable to pay the fine, is to be sold beyond the limits of the State for a sum sufficient to pay the fine and all costs. The law is not to affect seafaring men, servants, or persons entering the State temporarily for the purpose of trade. Any captain of a vessel taking a free negro into the State to attend a camp or other meeting is subject under this law to a fine of \$200.

A writer in the New York Journal of Commerce states that a committee of the lumbermen and ship builders of that city have purchased twenty-five square miles of territory on the Ohio river, clothed with millions of the most valuable timber, and possessing numerous other advantages, for the purpose of building vessels on an extensive scale. The writer says that ship plank worth \$40 per thousand in New York are placed upon the banks of the Ohio at \$5 to \$8; floor timbers worth in New York 45 cents per cubic foot, are furnished for seven to ten cents; and so of keels and other products of the forest.

PENSACOLA, MARCH 19.

The floating dry dock, on the balance plan, in progress of construction by Gilbert & Seccor, at the Pensacola navy yard, was launched this day, without the slightest accident. The dock is capable of receiving a steamship of six thousand four hundred tons, or double the tonnage of the Collins ships. Its dimensions are, length three hundred and fifty feet, width one hundred and five.

GRANT COTTON STALK.—The Alabama Journal (Montgomery) says: "We were shown, a few days since, by Mr. Goss, one of the delegates from this quarter to the World's Fair in London, a section of an immense cotton stalk, which he will take with him as a specimen of the plant as it grows in the rich prairie bottoms of Alabama. The plant was twenty feet in height and bore one thousand bolls. It was grown on the plantation of Mr. P. M. Warr, of this county. Mr. Goss and his brother will leave at an early period for Europe."

VIRGINIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.

THE TRUE POSITION OF SOUTH CAROLINA.—We have reason to believe that one of the chief arguments used by the Disunionists of South Carolina to persuade the people of that State to follow their rash counsels, consists in representations that she is scoffed at, ridiculed, and threatened with demolition by all who do not approve of the disunion project. With the boundless freedom which is allowed to the press in this country, it is impossible to say what extravagance of expression may not have been employed in some papers; but, according to our observation, the causes of complaint just referred do not exist to an extent worthy of serious notice. True, the frothy declamations of such men as Rhett have elicited much caustic commentary, and the various violent propositions which individual leaders have put forth have been criticized with unsparring severity, but we are not aware that the people of South Carolina have been treated with disrespect. Least of all is there just ground for the assertion that the State has been offensively threatened. Arguments have undoubtedly been used by advocates of the Union to show that no State can expect to withdraw from the Confederacy without incurring the inconveniences of war; but such reasoning was inseparable from the nature of the subject. So far as the National Administration is concerned, all must admit that its course has been marked by singular circumspection and forbearance. The President has frequently said, with immediate reference to violations of laws, in the observance of which the Southern States are particularly interested, that he would use all his authority to execute the laws. But, in regard to the position of South Carolina, not a word has escaped him which would authorize her most sensitive citizen to take umbrage. And, in truth, it seems to be the general tone of public sentiment in those States which are most opposed to a dissolution of the Union, if South Carolina should determine to secede, to waive the question whether she may properly be restrained by force, and to permit her possibly to learn by experience the folly of her course.

For our own part, we have not the slightest disposition, nor do we think there is any such disposition on the part of the Union men of Virginia, composing ninety-nine hundredths of her citizens, to speak or think offensively of South Carolina. We confess we have no great respect for South Carolina leaders and speakers, but the people of South Carolina are undoubtedly a brave people and an intelligent people; and if their present and public men would allow a fair discussion of the Union issue, we have no doubt the decision of that people would be correct. It is now due to them to say that their attitude appears, in some degree, to be misunderstood. The State is commonly said to be pledged to secession, and a very broad statement to this effect by a paper called the "Southern," published at Charlotte, North Carolina, has induced a striking and significant explanation in the Charleston Mercury, from a writer styling himself "AN OLD NULLIFIER." The "Southern" had asserted that, if South Carolina did not secede, she would become a reproach, the Palmetto a device upon the shield of cowardice, the State the Falsaff among the States," &c. The writer in the Mercury asserts, "without the fear of contradiction," that the Legislature of South Carolina has never, by any law, manifesto, resolution, or act, or deed whatsoever, taken any such "position" or "proud stand." He proceeds to say:

"She began her opposition to Federal aggressions by declaring that she would not arrogate to herself the position of leader in measures of resistance. She followed the lead, in adopting the resolutions of Virginia, proposing a Convention of the Southern States. She has sent delegates to such a convention. She has counselled with other States, and is still pursuing measures to hold further counsel with them. She has, by her acts, caused it to be understood that she is ready for secession, or for any other measure of resistance, which her sister States of the South shall agree to co-operate. But she has yet adopted no measure, put forth no declaration to indicate that she will act independently of her counsels or co-operation. On the contrary, at the very last session of her Legislature she invited the other Southern States to meet her for further joint deliberation, and appoint delegates to a Convention of the Southern States, in view of her relations to the laws and Government of the United States, and thereupon to take care that the Commonwealth of South Carolina shall suffer no detriment," and in this very law she declares, in relation to her delegates to the Southern Convention, that they are "entrusted with full power and authority to deliberate" (in conference with the other States) "with a view to the joint deliberations of the slave States as for any other purpose." It is true, it has been erroneously supposed that the calling of a Convention of the people of this State was done with a view to her immediate secession from the Union; but we have shown that this was not the fact. This measure, as well as that of arming the State, was as proper to put this State in a position to carry into effect the result of the joint deliberations of the slave States as for any other purpose. Should they resolve to secede, South Carolina is willing, and through her Convention, is ready to do so."

"South Carolina advocates resistance, almost to a man, and we are not prepared to say that in no event will she secede alone, nor do we desire that she should come to any such determination. But we do say that she does not intend to go out of this Union by herself, and we think that to adopt any such pledge at this time would be most unwise. Associated as she is with other States, equally aggrieved and equally brave, shall she assume to disregard their counsels, and precipitately pursue measures which may foil the very ends she may aim at? She has been counselled, by the voice of her Southern allies, to wait, and she has waited. Shall she venture to presume that, by disregarding this counsel, she will gain their sympathies?"

We think "An Old Nullifier" has fairly made out his case; and that South Carolina is not committed in honor to what her politicians call "separate State action." Some hot-headed gentlemen in her Legislature are doubtless bound by their personal declarations to advocate secession, but the State has taken care to pledge herself to secession only in the contingency that other Southern States agree to join her. It will be remembered that old Mr. CHEVENS, in his speech at the National Convention, which seems to be almost the magna charta of the Disunion leaders, advised that it was very important to secure the leadership of Virginia, and counselled a dissolution, provided four or five States should secede together.—Richmond Times.

FROM THE MONTREAL DAILY ADVERTISER OF MARCH 16.

A BREAK DOWN.—The Southern Rights meeting on Friday night, says the Montgomery State Register, was an entire failure—not a "dull, cold, lifeless" congregation, but no congregation at all! We are informed that six persons, all told, assembled to participate in the proceedings, and two or three Union men attended as lookers-on. The fire-eaters couldn't be rung up, but indignantly stayed at home, or went some where else, and left Southern Rights to take care of themselves. Of course the meeting ended in, or was "postponed," as reported. We hope it is not intended to "give it up so," and by all means those "documents" ought to be distributed.

SMOKING IN THE STREETS.—The principal business done in the Police Court of New Orleans, on Sunday, was the sentencing of divers young men for smoking in the streets. The practice of smoking in the streets is a nuisance, and the Court has been commanded by an express order of the Mayor and Aldermen, directing the City Marshal to prosecute all violations of the ordinance on that subject without unnecessary delay.

VAGARIES OF UPRAISM.

THE debate in the United States Senate on the Boston riot terminated on the 24th ult., in the reference of the President's message to the Judiciary Committee. But a new aspect was given to the whole subject during the debate by the speeches of several Southern Senators. The whole line of Southern argument on this subject was broken up. Hitherto it has been good Southern doctrine to maintain it to be the duty of the Federal Government to carry into effect, by proper legislation, the constitutional clause for the surrender of fugitive slaves. The failure to do so effectually has been the ground of heavy complaint against the Federal Government. The law of 1850 was held to be the first effective step to ensure the execution of this clause, and the whole South accepted it as sufficient for the object, and a good compensation for the passage of less approved bills, if it could be faithfully administered. The chief topic of complaint and distrust has been that it could not be enforced. The Executive was severely blamed for remissness in not removing the marshal of Massachusetts for neglect of his part of the duty in the case of Crafts; and, but the other day, in this very case of the rescued fugitive, the President was accused by some of indifference to his duty, in not removing at once the officer who permitted the slave in custody under the case to be taken from his hands. The right of the General Government to execute this law and its obligation to do it at all hazards, was affirmed as unquestionable truths, upon the acknowledgment of which by the people of the North, unreservedly, the safety of Southern rights within the Union was held to depend. The extreme South and Southwest, whose pecuniary interest in the fugitive slave law is extremely small, were invoked to make the faithful enforcement of this law a test of Union—the only satisfactory proof that the compromise is to be respected—the one pledge which must be exacted of the faithfulness of the Union to the rights of Southern States.

But in the Senate, on the 24th, to the surprise, we doubt not, of the whole country, this position was abandoned by a part of the South. Several of the Southern Senators became extremely sensitive on the subject of the enforcement of the law. They were alarmed at the consequences of any effort on the part of the Federal authorities to employ coercive measures to support its process even against mobs. They saw terrible dangers in the simple process of using force to aid the officers of the Union in executing the laws of the Union. They have suddenly discovered that it is alien to the genius of our Government to depend upon anything but the voluntary consent of the subjects upon whom the law is intended to operate, to carry it into effect. Laws must be obeyed from free will and affection, not from fear of consequences or dread of coercion. So, the Boston mob spirit must not be met by a determined front of Federal power, vindicating its own authority. That will lead to an exaltation of Federal authority, will be a dangerous precedent for the use of the Federal army against State rights—a terrible stride towards consolidation! Hence the conscience of those gentlemen, who have in their thoughts to arm the States against the authority of the General Government hereafter, in a crisis they think they see, or are determined to make, is shocked at allowing even so much vigor to the Executive arm as will enable it to enforce perfectly the law, which, of all the recent legislation of Congress, it most concerns the South to have maintained.

To reason, as these men do, from the case of a lawless riot to that of an organized State rebellion, making an analogy between the repression of a negro mob and the arming of forces to coerce a seceding State, shows a foregone conclusion in their minds, and raises the strongest presumption that they look upon the crisis of the conflict with the General Government to be at hand, and would strip the ordinary functions of authority in the simplest form of self-preservation, as they would, in time of anticipated warfare, endeavor to cripple the power with whom they expect to war. We can understand no better motives for the discouragement thrown in the way of the faithful execution of the slave law by those who declaim against the danger of employing force. Laws are only made because something more is required than voluntary assent to keep men and communities just towards each other; and no law would ever be observed if it were not for the force by which it is sustained. We do not mean that every law requires the manifestation of physical power to make it observed; but no law could be maintained at all against individual caprice or interest, but for the knowledge that society is organized and tribunals are established, and a vast array of physical